

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4663
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2014
RAJIV GANDHI NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP SCHEME
Hansdak Shri Vijay Kumar

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the salient features of the Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship Scheme;
- (b) the number of students benefited through this scheme during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and
- (c) the funds released and utilised under the scheme during the said period, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT)

(a) The salient features of the Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship Scheme (RGNF) for Scheduled Caste (SC) students are as under:

- (i) 2000 fresh fellowships are awarded every year with effect from 2010-11.
- (ii) There is no restriction as regards to the minimum marks in Post-Graduation Exam. It would be sufficient for a SC candidate to have passed the Post Graduation Examination for being eligible for RGNF.
- (iii) There is no requirement to clear national Eligibility Test/State Level Eligibility Test examination for availing fellowship.
- (iv) There is no income criterion for eligibility.
- (v) University Grants Commission (UGC) is the nodal agency for implementing the scheme.

(b) & (c) The Ministry does not release the funds under the scheme to the State Government. These are released to the University Grants Commission (UGC) for awarding fellowships. From the year 2010-11 onwards, a provision of 2000 fresh awards for each year, has been made. The scholarship is thus payable to all eligible ongoing and fresh cases. Details of fresh students selected, funds released to the UGC by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and utilized by the UGC during the last three years and current year under the scheme, are given below:-

Year	Number of fresh Students selected	Amount released to UGC (Rs. in crores)	Amount utilized by UGC (Rs. in crores)
2011-12	2000	103.69	59.38
2012-13	2000	0	61.57
2013-14	2000	24.5	85.53
2014-15	Selection yet to be completed	98.00	45.19

#UGC had unspent balances of the past years